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April 5, 2011

**The Honorable Daniel R. Elliot, III
Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Suite 1220
Washington, DC 20423-0001**

Dear Chairman Elliot:

I am writing to express the Upstate SC Alliance's support for a strong freight railroad network, not only in our state/region, but across the nation.

As America finally begins to pull itself out of the Great Recession, we do not need to reverse progress by damaging the ability of the rail industry to reinvest and continue to provide strong service.

We at the Upstate SC Alliance support a healthy freight rail network that encourages reinvestment by the rail industry, supports job growth and continued economic recovery.

We oppose any policy or regulatory changes that would hinder the freight railroads' ability to continue investing billions of dollars annually in private capital to grow and modernize the nation's rail infrastructure. We respectfully request that no regulatory or policy changes be pursued at this time by the STB. We need to maintain the strong and well-balanced regulatory regime we have in place today.

Thank you for our consideration of our position.

Sincerely,

**Hal Johnson
President/CEO**